

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 DHA-05

TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-07 EB-08 /134 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4751

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TEHRAN 8595

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, IR

SUBJ: CONSULTATION WITH IRAN ON 32ND UNGA

REFS: A) STATE 205678, B) TEHRAN 08369, C) USUN 3215

SUMMARY: CONSULTATION SEPT 27 WITH MFA INTERNATIONAL DEPT HEAD EHSASSI AND HIS ACTING DEPUTY SADEGHI PRODUCED NO SURPRISES. AS NOTED REF B, IRAN WILL WORK FOR MODERATION BUT VOTE WITH ARABS ON MIDDLE EAST AND WITH TURKS ON CYPRUS. IT WILL VOTE WITH AFRICANS AND THIRD WORLD ON RHODESIA, APARTHEID, AND NAMIBIA EXCEPT THAT IT WILL OPPOSE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS ON SOUTH AFRICA. IRANIANS EXPECT SCENARIOS SIMILAR TO THE PAST ON MOST OTHER ISSUES, INCLUDING PUERTO RICO, WHERE THEY WILL VOTE WITH US, AND GUAM, WHERE THEY WILL ABSTAIN. THEY DO NOT BELIEVE PROPOSAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS HIGH COMMISSIONER IS LIKELY TO BE ADOPTED AND ARE LIKE THEMSELVES TO ABSTAIN. THEY EXPECT TO VOTE FOR RESOLUTIONS AGAINST RACISM AND GENERALLY AGREE WITH IDEA OF ON RHODESIA. THEY ARE NOT IMPRESSED BY OUR PROBLEMS RE COMMUNICATIONS AND FREE SPEECH OUTLINED REFTEL A.

4. APARTHEID. IRAN WILL CONTINUE TO CONDEMN APARTHEID

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POLICY (AS FONMIN KHALATBARY INDEED HIGHLIGHTED IN HIS SPEECH TO UNGA SEPT 27), AND IRAN WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT ON NEED TO CHANGE ITS WAYS. IRAN WILL CONTINUE TO FAVOR SECONDARY BOYCOTT OF SPORTS TEAMS WHICH PLAY WITH SOUTH AFRICANS, AND ANY OTHER RESOLUTIONS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ECONOMIC MEASURES OR SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. WHILE IRAN IS NOT EXPANDING

ITS ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA, IT DOES NOT FEEL IT CAN DAMAGE THEM. RE CONFERENCE AGAINST APARTHEID HELD IN LAGOS LAST MONTH, MFA OFICIAL SADEGHI, WHO ATTENDED, UNDERLINED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MILD DECLARATION ISSUED BY THE CONFERENCE WHICH WAS INTENDED TO GET CONSENSUS OF ALL ATTENDING AND THE MUCH MORE RADICAL RESOLUTIONS PUT FORTH IN THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION WHICH WAS ANNEXED TO THE MAIN REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE. THUS MILDNESS OF LAGOS DECLARATION SHOULD NOT LEAD US TO ASSUME AFRICANS WILL NOT MAKE ENERGETIC EFFORTS AGAINST APARTHEID IN UNGA.

5. NAMIBIA. MFA OFFICIALS INDICATED IRANIAN POLICY ON NAMIBIA WILL FOLLOW GENERAL LINE OF OTHER SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES BUT WOULD DEPEND ON ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS THE EXTENT TO WHICH SOUTH AFRICANS ACCEPT COMPROMISE PROPOSALS AT PRESENT BEING PUT TO THEM. HERE AGAIN IRANIANS FAVOR COMBATTING TORTURE BUT ARE NOT SURE A GA WORKING GROUP IS RIGHT APPROACH. ON MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ISSUES, THEY EXPECT TO ACCOMMODATE TO G-77 VIEWS. ON ECONOMIC ISSUES, THEY EXPECT EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION DURING WHICH THEY WILL ENERGETICALLY PUSH FOR A CHANGE IN US ATTITUDE, BRINGING WITH IT CHANGE IN ATTITUDE OF OTHER WEO'S, TO ESTABLISH WHAT IRANIANS CONSIDER MORE EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC MACHINERY IN VIEW OF WHAT THEY SEE AS TOTAL FAILURE OF CIEC. END SUMMARY.

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1. MIDDLE EAST: RE ISRAELI PRACTICES IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, IRANIANS HEAR ROMANIANS MAY DRAFT A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAELI PRACTICES. IRAN WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY VOTE WITH ARABS FOR SUCH A RESOLUTION. SIMILARLY ON QUESTION OF PALESTINE, IRAN WILL WORK TO MODERATE ANY RESOLUTIONS BUT WILL END UP VOTING WITH ARABS. ON NEGOTIATING SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST, IRAN WILL CONSIDER ANY NEW ELEMENTS INTRODUCED AND TRY TO AVOID COMPLICATING NEGOTIATING SITUATION BUT WILL IN FINAL ANALYSIS GO ALONG WITH ARABS.

2. CYPRUS. IRANIANS NOTE THERE ARE DIFFERENCES ON SOME ISSUES EVEN BETWEEN TURKISH CYPRIOTS AND TURKISH GOVERNMENT. NEVERTHELESS IN PLENARY AND ON TURKISH SIDE OF ISSUES MORE GENERALLY.

3. RHODESIA. IRAN WILL CONTINUE TO VOTE FOR ALL SANCTIONS MODERATION AND NOT ROCKING THE BOAT OF ANY ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS BUT MUST FOLLOW THEIR BASIC PRINCIPLES WHEN IT COMES TO RECORDING ANY VOTES.

6. DISARMAMENT: SSOD. IRANIANS UNDERSTAND EVEN THOSE WHO

NORMALLY FAVOR HOT DEBATES ON DISARMAMENT WILL RESTRAIN
THEMSELVES IN UNGA SO THAT SSOD NEXT SUMMER WILL HAVE
SOMETHING TO DISCUSS.

7. DISARMAMENT: CHEMICAL WEAPONS. MFA OFFICIALS NOTE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TEHRAN 8595

IRAN WORKS VERY CLOSELY WITH US ON CCD IN GENEVA AND
USUALLY HOLDS IDENTICAL VIEWS.

8. DISARMAMENT: NON USE OF FORCE (NUF). IRANIANS NOTE
ONLY THE SOCIALIST BLOC COUNTRIES REPLIED TO SYG'S INVITATION
TO COMMENT ON THIS ISSUE. THEY EXPECT SAME SCENARIO AS
LAST YEAR.

9. DESARMAMENT: CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS (CAT).
WHILE IRANIANS ARE AWARE OF USG VIEWS THIS SUBJECT, THEY
HOPE USG IS ALSO AWARE OF IRAN'S LONG-HELD POSITION THAT ARMS
CONTROL AND REDUCTION HAS TO BEING WITH THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS
AND WORK DOWN TO CONVENTIONAL.

10. PUERTO RICO. IRAN WILL CONTINUE TO VOTE IS USG.

11. GUAM. IRAN WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY DO AS LAST YEAR, I.E.,
WORK FOR MILD RESOLUTION AND ABSTAIN.

12. KOREA. BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH KOREANS HAVE TOLD
IRANIANS THIS ISSUE WILL NOT BE RAISED IN 32ND UNGA.

13. HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. MFA OFFICIALS

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RECALL IRAN FAVORED THIS PROPOSAL WHEN IT WAS PUT FORTH BY COSTA RICA IN 1973. MORE RECENT EXPERIENCE HAS CONVINCED IRANIANS THE IDEA IS IMPRACTICAL. WHAT IS MORE, IT IS UNLIKELY TO BE ADOPTED BY THE UNGA AS GROUP OF 77 DOES NOT FAVOR IT AND THERE CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE OPPOSITION FROM OTHERS TOO, INCLUDING SOME EUROPEANS. NEVERTHELESS, IN ORDER TO BE CONSISTENT WITH STAND IRAN TOOK IN 1973, IRAN WILL NOT SPEAK OR VOTE AGAINST THE PROPOSAL. NEITHER WILL IT SUPPORT IT. ABSTENTION IS HIGHLY PROBABLE. MOST LIKELY OUTCOME WOULD BE TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION ONCE AGAIN.

14. THE DECADE AGAINST RACISM. IRANIANS WILL CONTINUE TO FIND IT DIFFICULT TO VOTE AGAINST RESOLUTIONS COMBATTING RACISM. THEY NOTE ECOSOC RESOLUTIONS AVOIDED EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO ZIONISM THOUGH ADMITTEDLY THEY DID NOT BREAK LINK TO ZIONISM-RACISM RESOLUTION.

15. TORTURE. IRAN AGREES WITH IDEA OF CONDEMNING TORTURE AND SETTING RULES OF BEHAVIOR, BUT IT HAS ITS DOUBTS AS TO HOW EFFECTIVE MACHINERY CAN BE ESTABLISHED. IRANIANS DO NOT BELIEVE GA WORKING GROUP ON TORTURE WILL WORK. PERHAPS WOULD BE BEST TO WORK THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. HOWEVER, IRAN HAS NO STRONG VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT AND WILL BE COOPERATIVE.

16. UN MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. AS A GENERAL PRINCIPLE, IRAN OPPOSES EXPANSION AND BUREAUCRATIZATION OF UN MACHINERY AND ALSO OPPOSES INCREASING EXPENSES AND THEREFORE DUES. RESTRUCTURING IS A DELICATE MATTER AND SHOULD BE STUDIED TO AVOID HASTY DECISIONS. RE 1978-79 BIENNIAL PROGRAM BUDGET, G-77 HAVE NOT YET DISCUSSED THEIR COMMON POSITION AND WILL BE DOING SO IN NEW YORK. IRAN ITSELF FAVORS KEEPING COSTS DOWN AND NOT EXPANDING, BUT ITS VIEWS WILL HAVE TO ACCOM-

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MODATE THEMSELVES TO G-77. RE UN SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS, IRAN DOES NOT FAVOR CHANGES AND HOPES THERE WILL BE A LENGTHY DEBATE ON THE REPORT WHEN IT COMES BEFORE UNGA. RE UN CONFERENCES, IRAN IS AGAINST PROLIFERATION OF MEETINGS AND DOCUMENTS, BUT MUST FACE ATTITUDE OF MANY SMALL MEMBERS OF G-77 WHO PAY VERY LITTLE AND OFTEN FAVOR SUCH CONFERENCES AND DOCUMENTS. ON UN SALARIES, MFA OFFICIALS SIMPLY NOTED THAT IRANIAN SHARE IS RELATIVELY MODEST AND THIS IS NOT A BIG PROBLEM FOR IRAN.

17. ECONOMIC ISSUES. MFA OFFICIALS WERE NOT SUFFICIENTLY FAMILIAR WITH DETAILS TO MAKE LONG DISCUSSION PRODUCTIVE. EHSASSI MADE GENERAL POINT THAT ON MOST OF THESE ISSUES IRAN DOES NOT SEE EYE TO EYE WITH US. CIEC IS CONSIDERED A TOTAL FAILURE IN IRANIAN EYES. NOW THAT NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE HAS "COME TO AN END," RENEWED EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO FIND WAYS AND MEANS OF INTRODUCING A NEW INTERNATIONAL ORDER INTO ECONOMIC LIFE. FUTURE DIALOGUES SHOULD BE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE UN, NOT OUTSIDE IT. IRAN, AS A MEMBER OF G-77, IS ALWAYS FOR CONSULTATION AND FINDING SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS, BUT HOPES TO WITNESS A MORE COOPERATIVE APPROACH FROM US SIDE. IF US DECIDES TO COOPERATE, EHSASSI CONTINUED, OTHER WEO'S WOULD HAVE TO FOLLOW. BECAUSE RESUMED UNGA SESSION DID NOT PRODUCE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT, IRANIANS EXPECT LENGTHY DISCUSSION IN UNGA. G-77 HAD LONG DISCUSSION IN GENEVA ON MACHINERY FOR THE FUTURE. SOME FAVORED UNCTAD AND UNIDA, OTHERS HAD OTHER IDEAS. IRANIANS ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO FURTHER EXCHANGES ON THIS IN NEW YORK. (AS TO SOME IRANIAN ATTITUDES ON ENERGY AND UNCTAD PREPCON ON COTTON, SEE TEHRAN 3371, 4565, AND 5156).

18. POL COUNS TOOK THIS OCCASION TO CONGRATULATE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT ON ELECTION OF ITS REPRESENTATIVE TO COMMITTEE V, PER REF C.
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